



PHOSPHITE ESTER ADDITIVE COMPOSITIONS

This application claims priority from United States provisional patent application serial number 60/273,303 filed March 2, 2001, United States provisional patent application serial number 60/314,181 filed March 16, 2001, and United States provisional patent application serial number 60/315,746 filed August 29, 2001.

Technical Field

The invention relates generally to improving the performance and reducing the heavy metal content of PVC compounds by the partial or total substitution of conventional mixed metal stabilizers with phosphite esters, or blends thereof, with an effective amount of added zinc.

Background of the Invention

The PVC industry began with the invention of plasticized polyvinyl chloride ("PVC") by Waldo Semon of the B. F. Goodrich Company in 1933 as an alternative to natural rubber where its non-flammability made it ideal for wire insulation, particularly on naval ships. However, unlike rubber, PVC has a tendency to discolor and is not easy to process well. Stabilization is required to perform two basic functions: (1) prevent discoloration; and (2) absorb hydrogen chloride (HCl) which evolves during process. It is believed that billions of pounds of flexible PVC are employed throughout the world in a wide variety of commercial applications. These include vinyl flooring, wall covering, roofing, pond and pool liners, film, upholstery, apparel, hose, tubing and wire insulation.

In order to successfully process vinyl compounds into finished vinyl articles by extrusion, calendering or molding, it is necessary to incorporate between one and five percent of a heat stabilizer to prevent dehydrohalogenation and discoloration of the polymer during thermal processing. The preferred vinyl heat stabilizers for most flexible PVC applications in the United States are referred to as "Mixed Metal" heat stabilizers. They are complex multi-component chemical admixtures based upon combinations of alkaline earth and heavy metal salts with a variety of antioxidants, HCl absorbers and chelating agents. The most widely used mixed metals are based upon and referred to as Barium-Cadmium, Barium-Cadmium-Zinc, Barium-Zinc and Calcium-Zinc stabilizers. However, mixed metal heat stabilizers suffer from several drawbacks. If the level of zinc is too high, the polymer will char very rapidly. Additionally, barium and cadmium are toxic heavy metals which while they do provide heat stability, their presence adversely affects



1 clarity, plate out and stain. In order to counteract these negative effects, further additional
2 components were blended into the formulations, making PVC additive formulation and
3 processing a highly unique and specialized art. Clearly, what was needed was an
4 approach which used higher performance phosphites and added back only what was
5 needed

182°C. The millings were then followed with a White clean-up mill sheet compound according to industry standards. The samples were then ranked according to relative plate out resistance. For compatibility testing, milled stock was cut into strips and aged for 30 days at 71°C and 100% relative humidity. Samples were then ranked according to relative color retention and tendency to spew. For relative clarity, 1/8" (0.32 cm) plaques were pressed at 190°C for 2 minutes, then compared against a printed background for relative crispness of letters through the plaques. For stabilizer volatility, a percentage weight loss was measured as a difference between the start and end weight of the stabilizer samples as measured in an oven after two (2) hours at 110°C.

Example #1

Four stabilized flexible PVC resin formulations (two Prior Art, i.e., compositions V and W as well as two of the instant invention, i.e., compositions B and C) were made in accordance with the components and quantities thereof as shown in Table III.

Table III

Component	<u>Parts</u>
PVC Resin	100
Plasticizer	40
Epoxidized soybean oil	5
Stabilizing blend	3

The Yellowness Index was measured for two prior art stabilizer additive packages in contrast to two compositions of the instant invention in Table IV in a short term static heat stability test. As is clearly seen in the table, the heat stability was not only equivalent to, but superior to Prior Art formulations, but without additional heavy metals. Equally significant to the fact that the heavy metal of Ba in the case of Prior Art formulation V and of Ba and Cd in the case of Prior Art formulation W, were eliminated in the formulations of the invention, but additionally resulted in superior clarity, a highly desirable feature in PVC signage.

Table IV

Color (Yellowness Index) Value				
Time (min)	Prior Art V	Prior Art W	B (150 ppm Zn)	C (180 ppm Zn)
0	2.9	2.4	1.3	1.6
30	6.1	4.0	2.9	2.9
60	15.5	19.6	6.5	7.4
90	33.0	63.3	22.5	26.3
110	57.6	140.0	37.5	65.9
Clarity	Poor	Fair	Excellent	Excellent

Example #2

Five stabilized flexible PVC resin formulations (two Prior Art, i.e., compositions X and Y as well as three of the instant invention, i.e., compositions D, E and F) were made in accordance with the components and quantities thereof as shown in Table V.

Table V

Component	Parts
PVC Resin	100
Plasticizer	35
Epoxidized soybean oil	3
CaCO ₃	20
Stearic Acid	0.2
Stabilizing blend	2.5

The Yellowness Index was measured for two prior art stabilizer additive packages in contrast to three compositions of the instant invention using the compositions of Table V in a short term static heat stability test. As is clearly seen in the following Table VI, the heat stability was not only equivalent to, but superior prior art formulations, but without additional heavy metals. Additionally, the volatility of the stabilizers was significantly less than that exhibited by Prior Art formulations, which is directly attributable to plate out, which increases with volatility as evidenced by the red to pink color of the clean out sheet, an undesirable feature for PVC sheets or films.

Table VI

Color (Yellowness Index) Value					
Time (min)	Prior Art X	Prior Art Y	D (72 ppm Zn)	E (180 ppm Zn)	F (180 ppm Zn)
0	1.7	2.4	1.8	1.5	1.6
15	2.7	2.6	2.4	1.7	2.6
60	19.4	16.9	11.2	12.1	16.1
105	28.4	26.8	20.7	20.1	20.3
165	Char	44.7	43.7	44.9	Char
% weight loss	20.1	12.3	1.1	0.6	0.2
Color of clean out sheet	Bright Red to Pink	Light Pink	White	White	White

Example #3

Two stabilized flexible PVC resin formulations (one Prior Art, i.e., composition U as well as one of the instant invention, i.e., composition A) were made in accordance with the components and quantities thereof as shown in Table VII.

Table VII

Component	<u>Parts</u>
PVC Resin	100
Impact Modifier	11
Epoxidized soybean oil	15
Processing Aid	3
Surfactant	3
Lubricant	1.0
Stabilizer	1.3

The Yellowness Index was measured for the prior art stabilizer additive package in contrast to a composition of the instant invention using the composition of Table VII in a short term static heat stability test. As is clearly seen in the following Table VIII, the dynamic and static heat stability were not only equivalent to, but superior to a Prior Art formulation, but without additional heavy metals.

Table VIII

Color (Yellowness Index) Value			Color (Yellowness Index) Value		
	Prior Art U	A (120ppm)		Prior Art U	A (120ppm)
Time (min)	Dynamic Thermal Stability		Time (min)	Static Thermal Stability	
0	15	7	0	5.2	3.1
3	26	14	10	8.3	5.0
6	45	30	20	12.7	6.4
9	62	51	30	18.5	13.2
12	96	78	40	30.1	18.1
15	Char	char	50	39.4	29.8
18			60	52.1	46.7
			70	Char	72.1
			80		Char

Example #4

While levels of Zn in the range of 100-500 ppm are believed to be preferred, depending on the level of performance desired by the end-user, higher levels of Zn, e.g., 480 ppm can be added to the system, but still achieve acceptable performance.

Table IX

Component	Parts
PVC Resin	100
Plasticizer	41
Epoxidized soybean oil	3
CaCO ₃	40
Surfactant	3
ATH	5
Lubricants	0.25
Stabilizer	2

The Yellowness Index was measured for the Prior Art stabilizer additive package in contrast to a composition of the instant invention using the compositions of Table IX in a short term static heat stability test. As is clearly seen in the following Table X, the heat

stability was not only equivalent to, but superior prior art formulation, but without additional heavy metals. Additionally, the volatility of the stabilizers was significantly less than that exhibited by Prior Art formulations, which is directly attributable to plate out, which increases with volatility as evidenced by the red to pink color of the clean out sheet, an undesirable feature for PVC sheets or films.

Table X

Time (min)	Color (Yellowness Index) Value	
	Prior Art Z	G (480ppm)
0	8.9	6.1
20	9.5	7.3
60	15.8	12.1
110	30.7	28.9
% weight loss	36.1	0.9
Color of clean out sheet	Bright Red to Pink	White

Example #5

The impact of Zn level with any one particular class of phosphite ester is was compared by using the formulation illustrated in Table XI with various levels of zinc in various phosphite stabilizers shown in Table XII. The level of zinc was varied from 0 ppm to 400 ppm.

Table XI

Component	Parts
PVC Resin	100
Plasticizer	45
Epoxidized soybean oil	5
CaCO ₃	20
Stearic acid	0.25
Phosphite	2

Table XIII

Component	Parts
PVC Resin	100
Plasticizer	45
Epoxidized soybean oil	5
CaCO ₃	20
Stearic acid	0.25
Phosphite	various

Table XIV

Time (min)	Color (Yellowness Index) Value			
	Ba/Cd	Ba/Zn	Ba/Cd/Zn	B
0	1.4	1.2	1.6	1.5
30	1.7	1.5	2.2	1.7
75	8.9	9.9	8.3	5.8
120	12.7	16.7	10.8	9.9
150	15.7	21.9	15.1	14.4

Example #7

A stabilization for a pool liner composition was performed using the composition of Table XIII was formulated using 3.5 phr of stabilizer, the Yellowness Index results of which are shown in Table XV for several Prior Art additives..

Table XV

Time (min)	Color (Yellowness Index) Value			
	Ba/Cd	Ba/Zn	Ba/Cd/Zn	B
0	1.7	1.1	1.6	1.2
20	2.2	1.9	2.3	1.5
40	4.1	3.5	3.5	3.3
70	11.8	8.1	9.8	7.7
100	16.2	22.7	21.8	13.2
120	23.0	36.0	32.5	21.9

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Table XXI

Component	Parts
PVC Resin	100
Plasticizer	38
Epoxidized soybean oil	3
Stearic acid	0.2
Zinc stearate (10% Zn by weight)	0.08
Phosphite	Various

2

3

Table XXII

Time	Color (Yellowness Index) Value				
	2 phr Doverphos® 4	2 phr Doverphos® 479	1 phr Doverphos® 479	0.4 phr Doverphos® 479	2 phr Doverphos® 53
Time (min) at 180°C					
0	1.8	2.5	1.5	1.5	0.9
20	2.5	2.9	2.0	1.9	1.2
50	4.4	4.5	3.1	3.0	3.3
80	56.6	9.4	7.6	16.5	12.1
110	89.1	13.4	19.0	Char	45.3
120	char	16.3	30.0		107
Time (hrs) at 80°C					
0	7.5	8.3	6.1	6.2	5.4
48	13.2	12.8	10.6	11.1	8.7
144	24.3	21.5	19.7	21.5	17.9
192	30	25.2	24.0	26.0	24.8
240	35.5	29.0	28.0	30.6	31.3
336	47.4	35.9	35.3	38.8	42.7
408	56.0	41.1	40.5	45.0	47.1
480	64.2	46.2	45.4	50.7	50.5
Time (hrs) using Xenon Arc Weatherometer (63°C)					
0	7.5	8.3	6.1	6.2	5.4
24	12.8	9.7	6.4	6.2	5.6